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DAMERON HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

DAMERON HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION, a
California Non-Profit Association,

Plaintiff,

v.

GEICO GENERAL INSURANCE
COMPANY, a Nebraska Corporation,

Defendant.

Case No. 2:24-cv-01379-DJC-AC

**[PROPOSED]
STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER**

1 1. INTRODUCTION

2 1.1 PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

3 Disclosure and discovery in this action are likely to involve production of
4 confidential, proprietary, commercially sensitive, personally identifiable information
5 (“PII”), or private information for which special protection from public disclosure and from
6 use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted. Accordingly,
7 the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the Court to enter the following Stipulated
8 Protective Order.

9 Pursuant to Local Rule 141.1(c)(3), the parties believe that the Terms and
10 Conditions set forth herein should be entered by a court order, as opposed to a private
11 agreement between or among the parties, because the terms will pertain solely to the
12 production and use of discovery in this action, will set forth procedures by which the
13 parties can expeditiously resolve confidentiality or privilege-related disputes before the
14 Court, and will govern potential discovery from third parties who would not otherwise be
15 subject to a private agreement.

16 The parties acknowledge that this Order does not confer blanket protections on all
17 disclosures or responses to discovery and that the protection it affords from public
18 disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to
19 confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles. The parties further
20 acknowledge, as set forth in Section 12.3, below, that this Stipulated Protective Order
21 does not entitle them to file confidential information under seal; Civil Local Rule 141 sets
22 forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a
23 party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

24 1.2 GOOD CAUSE STATEMENT

25 This action is likely to involve trade secrets and other valuable commercial,
26 financial, technical and/or proprietary information for which special protection from public
27 disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecution of this action is
28 warranted. Such confidential and proprietary materials and information consist of, among

1 other things, information regarding individuals subject to the standards for Privacy of
2 Individually Identifiable Health Information promulgated pursuant to the Health Insurance
3 Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPAA"), or other similar statutory or regulatory
4 privacy protections, confidential business or financial information, information regarding
5 confidential business practices, or other confidential commercial information (including
6 information implicating privacy rights of third parties), information otherwise generally
7 unavailable to the public, or which may be privileged or otherwise protected from
8 disclosure under state or federal statutes, court rules, case decisions, or common law.
9 Specifically, this action is likely to involve the production of business records which
10 contain Personally Identifiable Information ("PII") and Protected Health Information ("PHI")
11 of non-party patients, insureds, and beneficiaries, including names, addresses, birth
12 dates, telephone numbers, social security numbers, health plan beneficiary numbers,
13 Health Identification Code ("HIC") Numbers, claim numbers, policy numbers,
14 certificate/license numbers, vehicle identifiers and serial numbers, license plate numbers,
15 biometric identifiers, full face photographic images and any comparable images, medical
16 treatment records, medical payment records, and other individually identifiable health
17 information. Accordingly, to expedite the flow of information, to facilitate the prompt
18 resolution of disputes over confidentiality of discovery materials, to adequately protect
19 information the parties are entitled to keep confidential, to ensure that the parties are
20 permitted reasonable necessary uses of such material in preparation for and in the
21 conduct of trial, to address their handling at the end of the litigation, and serve the ends
22 of justice, a protective order for such information is justified in this matter. It is the intent
23 of the parties that information will not be designated as confidential for tactical reasons
24 and that nothing be so designated without a good faith belief that it has been maintained
25 in a confidential, non-public manner, and there is good cause why it should not be part of
26 the public record of this case.

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2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation of information or items under this Order.

2.2 "Confidential Material": information (regardless of how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in the Good Cause Statement.

Confidential Material is limited to:

(a) information regarding individuals subject to the standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information promulgated pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPAA"), or other similar statutory or regulatory privacy protections; and

(b) information that has been maintained in a confidential, non-public manner and that constitutes protectable trade secrets as defined by the Uniform Trade Secrets Act, Cal. Civ. Code § 3426.1, or similarly protected, proprietary, non-public financial, technical, or commercial information.

(c) information subject to protection under California's Insurance Information and Privacy Protection Act (California Insurance Code § 791 to § 791.29), or other similar statutory or regulatory privacy protections; and

(d) information entitled to confidential treatment under existing California law, including personal or private information implicated by *Hill v. National Collegiate Athletic Assn.* (1994) 7 Cal. 4th 1 and *Griffith v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co.* (1991) 230 Cal. App. 3d 59, and information protected by the constitutional right of privacy established in Article 1, Section 1 of the California Constitution.

2.3 Counsel: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as their support staff).

2.4 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as "CONFIDENTIAL".

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2.5 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including, among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

2.6 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as an expert witness or as a consultant in this action.

2.7 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this Action. House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside counsel.

2.8 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

2.9 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a party to this action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this Action and have appeared in this action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm which has appeared on behalf of that party.

2.10 Party: any party to this action, including all of its officers, directors, employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their support staffs).

2.11 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or Discovery Material in this action.

2.12 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation support services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium) and their employees and subcontractors.

2.14 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material from a Producing Party.

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1 3. SCOPE

2 The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only
3 Confidential Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted
4 from Confidential Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of
5 Confidential Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations by Parties
6 or their Counsel that might reveal Confidential Material. However, the protections
7 conferred by this Stipulation and Order do not cover the following information: (a) any
8 information that is in the public domain at the time of disclosure to a Receiving Party or
9 becomes part of the public domain after its disclosure to a Receiving Party as a result of
10 publication not involving a violation of this Order, including becoming part of the public
11 record through trial or otherwise; and (b) any information known to the Receiving Party
12 prior to the disclosure or obtained by the Receiving Party after the disclosure from a
13 source who obtained the information lawfully and under no obligation of confidentiality to
14 the Designating Party. Any use of Confidential Material at trial shall be governed by a
15 separate agreement or order.

16 4. DURATION

17 Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations imposed
18 by this Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees otherwise in writing
19 or a court order otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be deemed to be the later of (1)
20 dismissal of all claims and defenses in this action, with or without prejudice; and (2) final
21 judgment herein after the completion and exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings,
22 remands, trials, or reviews of this action, including the time limits for filing any motions or
23 applications for extension of time pursuant to applicable law.

24 5. DESIGNATING CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

25 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection.

26 Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under this
27 Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies
28 under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party must designate for protection

1 only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written communications that
2 qualify – so that other portions of the material, documents, items, or communications for
3 which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably within the ambit of this
4 Order.

5 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that
6 are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose
7 (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber the case development process or to impose
8 unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Designating Party
9 to sanctions.

10 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it
11 designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must
12 promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the inapplicable designation.

13 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in
14 this Order (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise
15 stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection under
16 this Order must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or produced.

17 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

18 (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic
19 documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings),
20 that the Producing Party affix at a minimum, the legend "CONFIDENTIAL" to each page
21 that contains Confidential Material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page
22 qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected
23 portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins). A Party or Non-Party
24 that makes original documents available for inspection need not designate them for
25 protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated which documents it would like
26 copied and produced. During the inspection and before the designation, all of the
27 material made available for inspection shall be deemed "CONFIDENTIAL." After the
28 inspecting Party has identified the documents it wants copied and produced, the

1 Producing Party must determine which documents, or portions thereof, qualify for
2 protection under this Order. Then, before producing the specified documents, the
3 Producing Party must affix the “CONFIDENTIAL legend” to each page that contains
4 Confidential Material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for
5 protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g.,
6 by making appropriate markings in the margins).

7 (b) for testimony given in depositions or in other pretrial or trial proceedings, that
8 the Designating Party identify on the record, before the close of the deposition, hearing,
9 or other proceeding, all protected testimony.

10 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and for any
11 other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the exterior of
12 the container or containers in which the information is stored the legend
13 “CONFIDENTIAL”.

14 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent
15 failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the
16 Designating Party’s right to secure protection under this Order for such material. Upon
17 timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable efforts to
18 assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

19 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

20 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a
21 designation of confidentiality at any time that is consistent with the Court’s Scheduling
22 Order.

23 6.2 Meet and Confer.

24 The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute resolution process by providing
25 written notice of each designation it is challenging and describing the basis for each
26 challenge. To avoid ambiguity as to whether a challenge has been made, the written
27 notice must recite that the challenge to confidentiality is being made in accordance with
28 this specific paragraph of the Protective Order. The parties shall attempt to resolve each

1 challenge in good faith and must begin the process by conferring directly (in voice to
2 voice dialogue; other forms of communication are not sufficient) within 14 days of the
3 date of service of notice. In conferring, the Challenging Party must explain the basis for
4 its belief that the confidentiality designation was not proper and must give the
5 Designating Party an opportunity to review the designated material, to reconsider the
6 circumstances, and, if no change in designation is offered, to explain the basis for the
7 chosen designation. A Challenging Party may proceed to the next stage of the
8 challenge process only if it has engaged in this meet and confer process first or
9 establishes that the Designating Party is unwilling to participate in the meet and confer
10 process in a timely manner.

11 6.3 Judicial Intervention.

12 If the Parties cannot resolve a challenge without court intervention, the
13 Designating Party shall have 21 days from the date the Challenging Party advises in
14 writing that the parties' meet and confer process has reached an impasse to file a motion
15 with the Court to maintain the confidentiality designation (a "Motion to Maintain
16 Confidentiality"). Any Motion to Maintain Confidentiality must be accompanied by a
17 competent declaration affirming that the movant has complied with the meet and confer
18 requirements imposed by the preceding paragraph 6.2. If the Designating Party fails to
19 file a Motion to Maintain Confidentiality within the 21-day period, the confidentiality
20 designation shall be automatically waived, and the material shall no longer be treated as
21 Confidential Material.

22 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on the
23 Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (e.g.,
24 to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose
25 the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating Party has waived or
26 withdrawn the confidentiality designation (including by failing to timely file a Motion to
27 Maintain Confidentiality as set forth above), all parties shall continue to afford the
28 material in question the level of protection to which it is entitled under the Producing

1 Party's designation until the Court rules on the challenge or the time to file the motion
2 has expired.

3 7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

4 7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Confidential Material that
5 is disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this
6 action only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this action. Such
7 Confidential Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the
8 conditions described in this Order. When the action has been terminated, a Receiving
9 Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below (FINAL DISPOSITION).
10 Confidential Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a location
11 and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized
12 under this Order.

13 7.2 Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items. Unless otherwise
14 ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a Receiving Party
15 may disclose any information or item designated "CONFIDENTIAL" only to:

16 (a) the Receiving Party's Outside Counsel of Record in this action, as well as
17 employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably necessary to
18 disclose the information for this action;

19 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of the
20 Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this action;

21 (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure
22 is reasonably necessary for this action and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and
23 Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);

24 (d) the court and its personnel;

25 (e) court reporters, deposition videographers and their staff;

26 (f) professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional Vendors
27 to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this action and who have signed the
28 "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);

(g) during their depositions, or in preparation for their depositions or trial, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary. Nothing herein shall prevent counsel from showing a document designated "CONFIDENTIAL" to a witness during a deposition, provided that the witness may not retain a copy of the document. Witnesses shall not be required to sign the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A) prior to or during their deposition, provided that the witness is advised on the record that the material is subject to this Protective Order. The portion of the deposition transcript where the Confidential Material is discussed shall be designated as "CONFIDENTIAL."

(h) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel, mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions;

(i) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

7.3 Use of Litigation Technology and Support Services. The parties agree that Outside Counsel of Record and other persons authorized under this Order may use third-party practice management software, cloud-based storage, and other software, tools, and ancillary support services (collectively "Litigation Support Systems") for storing, reviewing, analyzing, and managing Confidential Material. The use of such Litigation Support Systems for purposes of this litigation shall not, in itself, be considered a disclosure or breach of this Stipulated Protective Order, provided that counsel takes reasonable measures to ensure any such Litigation Support Systems maintain the confidentiality and security of the Confidential Material consistent with this Order and counsel's professional obligations.

8. CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED
IN OTHER LITIGATION

If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as "CONFIDENTIAL," that Party must:

1 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification shall
2 include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

3 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to
4 issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or
5 order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include a copy of this
6 Stipulated Protective Order; and

7 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by
8 the Designating Party whose Confidential Material may be affected.

9 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with the
10 subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this action as
11 "CONFIDENTIAL" before a determination by the court from which the subpoena or order
12 issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party's permission. The
13 Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in that court
14 of its confidential material and nothing in these provisions should be construed as
15 authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this action to disobey a lawful directive
16 from another court.

17 9. A NON-PARTY'S CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE PRODUCED IN
18 THIS LITIGATION

19 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a Non-
20 Party in this action and designated as "CONFIDENTIAL." Any information that may be
21 produced by a Nonparty in this Action (pursuant to subpoena or otherwise) may be
22 designated by such Nonparty as "CONFIDENTIAL" under the terms of this Stipulated
23 Protective Order, and any such designation by a Nonparty shall have the same force and
24 effect, and create the same duties and obligations, as if made by one of the undersigned
25 parties to the litigation. Such information produced by Non-Parties in connection with this
26 litigation is protected by the remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these
27 provisions should be construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional
28 protections.

(b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to produce a Non-Party's confidential information in its possession, and the Party is subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party's confidential information, then the Party shall:

(1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement with a Non-Party;

(2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated Protective Order in this action, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably specific description of the information requested; and

(3) make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-Party, if requested.

(c) If the Non-Party fails to seek a protective order from this court within 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party may produce the Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall not produce any information in its possession or control that is subject to the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the court. Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in this court of its Confidential Material.

10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed Confidential Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Confidential Material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order, and (d) request

1 such person or persons to execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound”
2 that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

3 11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE
4 PROTECTED MATERIAL

5 When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain
6 inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the
7 obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
8 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be
9 established in an e-discovery order that provides for production without prior privilege
10 review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and (e), insofar as the parties
11 reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a communication or information
12 covered by the attorney-client privilege or work product protection, the parties may
13 incorporate their agreement in the stipulated protective order submitted to the court.
14 Accordingly, it is ordered that, pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d), the
15 inadvertent production of any document or information subject to the attorney-client
16 privilege, work product protection, or any other applicable privilege shall not be deemed
17 a waiver of that privilege or protection in this case or in any other federal or state
18 proceeding.

19 12. MISCELLANEOUS

20 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any
21 person to seek its modification by the court in the future.

22 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this
23 Protective Order no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to disclosing
24 or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in this Stipulated
25 Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on any ground to use in
26 evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.

27 12.3 Filing Confidential Material. Without written permission from the Designating
28 Party or a court order secured after appropriate notice to all interested persons, a Party

1 may not file in the public record in this action any Confidential Material. A Party that seeks
2 to file under seal any Confidential Material must comply with Civil Local Rule 141 and the
3 Court's pretrial scheduling order. However, if a Receiving Party intends to file Confidential
4 Material, it shall provisionally lodge the material with the Court or file a "Notice of Request
5 to Seal" pursuant to Local Rule 141. The Designating Party shall thereafter bear the
6 burden of filing a "Request to Seal" setting forth the statutory or other authority for sealing,
7 the requested duration, the identity, by name or category, of persons to be permitted
8 access to the documents, and all other relevant information within three (3) court days of
9 the Receiving Party's notice or lodging. If the Designating Party fails to timely file a
10 Request to Seal, the Receiving Party may file the material in the public record, or if already
11 lodged, the material shall be unsealed. Confidential Material may only be filed under seal
12 pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the specific Confidential Material at
13 issue. Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 141, a sealing order will issue only upon a request
14 establishing that the material at issue is privileged, protectable as a trade secret, or
15 otherwise entitled to protection under the law. If a Receiving Party's request to file
16 Confidential Material under seal pursuant to Civil Local Rule 141(b) is denied by the court,
17 then the Receiving Party may file the information in the public record pursuant to Civil
18 Local Rule 141(e) unless otherwise instructed by the court.

19 13. FINAL DISPOSITION

20 After the final disposition of this action, as defined in paragraph 4, within 60 days
21 of a written request by the Designating Party, each Receiving Party must return all
22 Confidential Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As used in this
23 subdivision, "all Confidential Material" includes all copies, abstracts, compilations,
24 summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Confidential
25 Material. Whether the Confidential Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving Party
26 must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same person or
27 entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies (by category,
28 where appropriate) all the Confidential Material that was returned or destroyed and (2)

1 affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any copies, abstracts, compilations,
2 summaries or any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Confidential Material.
3 Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to retain an archival copy of all
4 pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, legal memoranda,
5 correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and
6 consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain Confidential Material.
7 Any such archival copies that contain or constitute Confidential Material remain subject to
8 this Protective Order as set forth in Section 4 (DURATION).

9 **IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.**

10
11 Dated: December 16, 2025

GORDON REES SCULLY MANSUKHANI, LLP

12
13 By /s/ Adelle Greenfield

14 Jordan S. Altura
15 Adelle Greenfield
16 Attorneys for Defendants
GEICO GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY

17 Dated: December 16, 2025

LAW OFFICES OF STEVEN B. SIMON

18
19 By /s/ Alan Fassonaki

20 Alan Fassonaki, Esq.
21 Attorneys for Plaintiff
DAMERON HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

22 **ORDER**

23 GOOD CAUSE APPEARING, the Court hereby approves this Stipulated
24 Protective Order.

25 Dated: December 17, 2025

26 

27 HON. ALLISON CLAIRE
28 United States Magistrate Judge

EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [full name], of _____ [address],
declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the
Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court for the
Eastern District of California on [date] in the case of *Dameron Hospital Association v.*
GEICO General Insurance Company, Case No. 2:24-cv-01379-DJC-AC. I agree to
comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I
understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions
and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in
any manner any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to
any person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for
the Eastern District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated
Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this
action.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

City and State where sworn and signed: _____